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THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" At least, I do not think that the Public Services Commission will advertise the posts, because these persons have been working in the Department for a long time and I think they also possess the requisite qualifications. All that the Commission may have to do is to look into the question of communal representation, fixation of number of posts for each community and so on. If all these things are examined and finalised, the Commission will send in their recommendations."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" Are there any persons now in service, who do not possess the requisite qualifications? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I have no information. I think, they must be qualified."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Is the Public Services Commission given work now. Is it still functioning? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I do not know, Sir. But I think the Public Services Commission still exists (laughter) and they are doing their work."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Will the Government consider the desirability of providing any refresher course for these persons in order to make them fit and competent so that in accordance with the new rules they may be absorbed in the new category that has been created? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" No, Sir. The Public Services Commission will go into all details of their service and make suitable recommendations."

Replacement of the entomological assistants by recruiting Zoology or Agricultural B.Scs.

* 23 *Q.*—SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU : Will the Hon the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to replace any of the present assistants who have put in some years of useful and efficient service as entomological assistants by recruiting raw Zoology or Agricultural B.Scs. who have no experience in the field of investigation and control of malaria?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" No."

Radium needles.

* 24 *Q.*—MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) What the opinion of the Committee appointed by the Government to examine the radium needles is;

(*b*) whether a copy of the report will be laid on the table of this House; and

(*c*) whether the defective needles have been replaced?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (*a*) The Committee considered the distribution of radium in the needles to be

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unsatisfactory, and that the use of all the needles for purposes of treatment cannot be justified, and recommended that all the needles should be reautographed and classified into bad ones, which should not be used at all, those approaching the standard distribution which might be used safely, and border-line cases which should be classified according the length of their active part and the distance of their ends from that part, and used accordingly. The Committee further recommended that the second and third category of needles should be put into use only as a temporary measure with due regard to the distribution of radium in them, pending the rectification of the entire lot of needles.

" (*b*) Does not arise in view of the answer to clause (*c*) and the fact that the report as a whole is a confidential official document which it is not desirable in the public interest to publish.

" (*c*) A few needles have been returned to the supplying firm for rectification. On their return and after satisfying that these needles have been properly rectified, the remaining needles will be returned for rectification, beginning with the bad ones referred to by the Committee, then the border-line cases and then the rest."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, when these needles were sent to the manufacturers for replacement? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I do not remember the exact date. It is some months since they were sent."

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" May I know, Sir, whether the firm has agreed to replace all the defective needles with proper radium needles? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The firm has taken back the defective needles with the promise that they would be rectified and it is up to us to see if the defect is rectified according to specifications, when the needles are returned."

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" My question is whether the firm has agreed to rectify all the defective needles, not the ones that have already been sent."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is their duty to give us the correct ones. Once we found it defective, we have asked them to rectify the defects in conformity with the terms of the order."

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" Have the manufacturers agreed to replace all the defective needles or are they going to replace only those that have been sent to them? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" This is a legal question, Sir. I am sure the contracting firm is not so bad or so unreliable as to go out of the way and say that they would not do it. They have entered into a contract with the Government and they will honour the terms of the contract."

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, who the Members of the Enquiry Committee were? Had the Committee on it any expert who has had experience of radio-therapy ? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I have already said that this is confidential and I cannot divulge the names. I may say this much for the information of the hon. Member. The Committee did have members who were well experienced in the subject and who could pronounce an opinion on these things."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Are the names of the Members of the Committee also confidential? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes, Sir. It will not be in public interests to divulge the names."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" May I know who were responsible for purchasing such bad needles? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" They were not bad as such. They were ordered for from an American firm by the Professor of Pathology who was in charge of the Bernard Institute."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN :—" One can understand why a particular information is to be kept confidential in public interests. But to say that the names of the Members of the Committee are confidential is rather strange. Many must have known the names."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The hon. Member is not certainly justified in suggesting that names of the members have been known. I may assure him that they were not given out, at any rate, by me, and, therefore, it is confidential as it was ever before."

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" May I know the basis on which the report is treated as confidential? "

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" On a point of order, Sir, when once the Hon. the Minister has stated that it is not in public interest to disclose the names of the members of the Committee is it proper for hon. Members to put a volley of questions on the same subject? "

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether these defective needles have been withdrawn from use? "

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" My question has not been answered, Sir."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Too many questions are hurled at me at one and the same time. I can answer only one question at a time."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether these needles have been withdrawn from use? " 3-15 p.m.

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes, Sir."

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether on that account a large number of patients who were receiving treatment have been discharged from their wards? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" There are some needles with the department which can be used and they are still being used."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In view of the fact that the Hon. Minister himself gave out the other day that the number of American needles that were withdrawn was large, is it not a fact, Sir, that the patients that were given treatment especially in the cancer ward are not getting it now as the number of English needles is small? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Needles are available and to the extent they are available, they are now being used."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In view of the fact that the Hon. Minister himself said that the clinical results were not bad, will he permit the use of the American needles, such of them as are not very defective so that those under treatment may get the benefit? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" No, Sir. We were advised that it is not safe and therefore they have removed it."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" What arrangements are being made to replace these needles, whether they propose to purchase new needles which are not defective or replace the defective needles and how long will it take to replace them by sending them back to America? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" There are still some needles which can be used and are being used. But with regard to the needles which were found defective, the firm which supplied them is bound by the terms of the contract to give us the correct ones. We have sent them to the firm. We must negotiate with them and get the correct ones. We were not advised to buy fresh ones because the needles are very costly and cannot be had so cheaply or whenever we want them."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Then, May I know, Sir, whether the Government will continue to deny treatment to those who need it till these needles are got back, which will take a long time? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" We are using it perhaps not to the extent that might be expected but really as often as necessity arises and to the extent the stock permits it, we are giving the greatest use possible."

SRI S. JAYARAM REDDI :—" May I know, Sir, the cost of the needles? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I do not know. They would cost us perhaps, lakhs."

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DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" In a highly technical matter like this the discussion such as this would only produce confusion. An hon. Member was just now asking for the cost of a needle. There are different types of needles. The content of needles varied from 1 to 25 milligrams and one milligram costs about Rs. 300. While I welcome the spirit with which the Members are asking questions, in a highly technical matter such as this, may I respectfully submit that it will only lead to an erroneous impression by pressing the matter here with so much of heat."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have made any attempt to manufacture these needles in our country? "

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" The Government is incompetent to manufacture them in this country."

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that this House is so much interested in the question of these needles because a large amount of money has been spent and for that money needles which are not of use have been supplied? "

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" My question has not been answered, Sir."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I am only too prepared to answer the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, but let him say what is it that he wants."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Have the Government made any effort to manufacture the needles in this country? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It cannot be manufactured by us in this country."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" We are laymen as far as the needles are concerned. But a large number of them have been withdrawn from use. That is what the Hon. Minister said. To that extent the patients getting relief have been denied that. Our personal interest in the matter is to see that the patients get the required treatment. I do not think hon. Member Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar was right in taking us to task on a matter in which we are vitally interested."

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I only referred to such questions which are not possible of being answered on the floor of this House. They are all of a very technical nature."

Alleged irregularities in the working of the Bellary Primary Co-operative Stores.

* 25 Q.—SRI B. BHIMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether complaints have been received by the Government as well as the Registrar of Co-operative Societies with regard to the non-furnishing of the particulars referred to in question